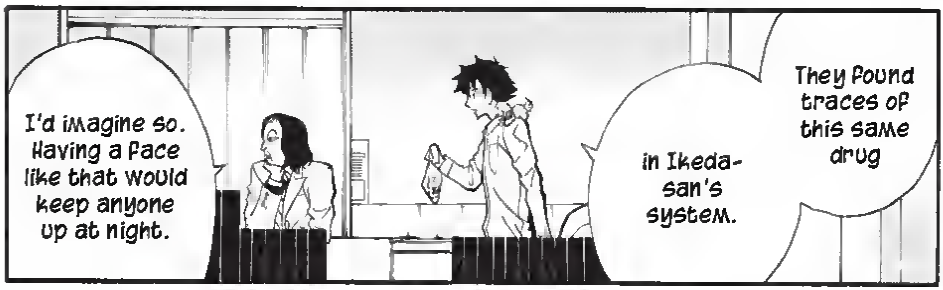
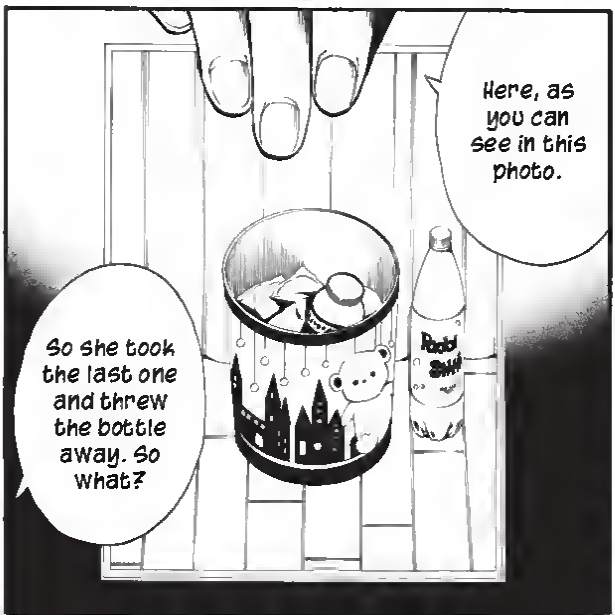
Cosmetic Surgeon Yoshito Akane.
You used a cruel and heartless trick
to create an ironclad alibi
and make Hoshiko Ikeda hang herself!!
Wha...?!
Don't let his bluff beat you, Yoshito!!
You see, when we searched her apartment...

Sleeping pills. Average, ordinary sleeping pills.
...
フゥ
HMPH
What about them?

We found this.
I'm sure you know what this is, Akane-sensei.
コトッ
CLUNK


They found traces of this same drug in Ikeda-san's system.
I'd imagine so. Having a face like that would keep anyone up at night.


Here, as you can see in this photo.
So she took the last one and threw the bottle away. So what?

...
The thing is, we found this empty bottle...
ふ...ss...

...Does that look like a trash can to you?
RUSTLE...
This is what was inside.
Take a good look.
...What?!
But look, here's some uneaten candy.
And some unopened crackers.
These are candy wrappers.
This is a plastic bag from a rice cracker.
This wasn't a trash can.
It was a snack tin, to hold candy.
GRAPE
So she put the wrappers back in the snack tin to throw away later...I'm pretty sure a lot of people do that.
It's a pain to have to get up and walk to the trash can for every candy.
B...but there was trash in it—empty wrappers!

So why would she put a bottle of sleeping pills there?
But there was no sign of tissues
or any other kind of trash.
I suspect the killer
H-how should I know?
Since they didn't find any in her stomach or intestines.
He must have found a place that wouldn't be too obvious,
to inject it directly into her blood-stream.
used a drug to put Hoshiko Ikeda to sleep
...
the drug was sure to be found in her system.
But he knew that if an autopsy were done,
so he could get everything ready to kill her.

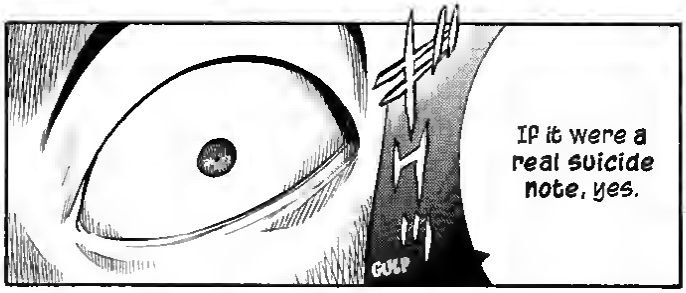
Hoshiko-san herself would never have done such a thing.
But he put it in the snack tin by mistake.
N... no...
and put an empty bottle of pills with the same chemical makeup in the trash can.
So he wanted to make it look like she used it regularly.
And you administered just enough of the drug to make sure she woke up at six in the morning.
She was here, in a room in this clinic.
carried her up to the water tower on the roof
and tied a rope around her neck.
and drove her to her apartment.
Then you put her in your car
You changed her into lounge-wear,

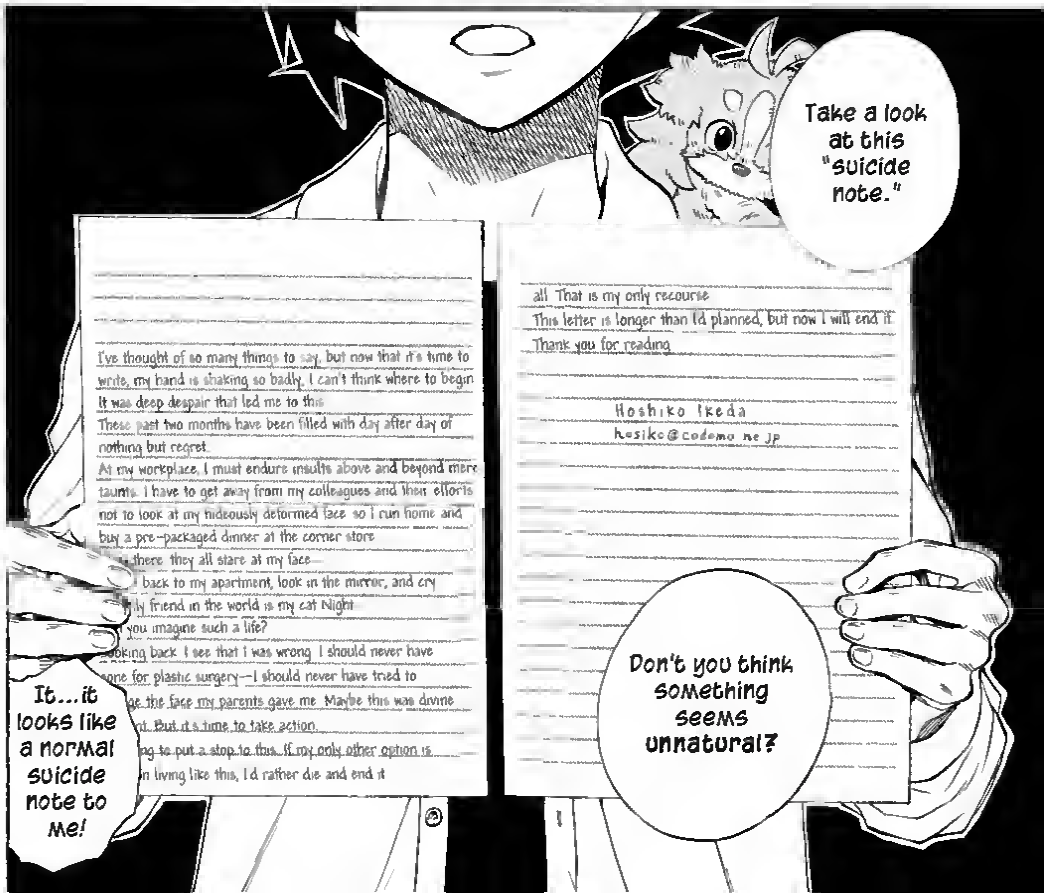
Once you'd finished your preparations,
you rearranged the room to make it fit your scenario and went home.
...
at the very edge of an already slanting water tower roof.
To top it all off, you laid her down
...
MUNCH MUNCH
To get your alibi.
Then, after hardly any sleep,
you went to meet the editors for your appointment.
Still groggy, she tried to get up...
GNN
She had no idea where she was.
And while you were golfing with the editors,
Ikeda-san woke from her drug-induced state, just as you'd planned.

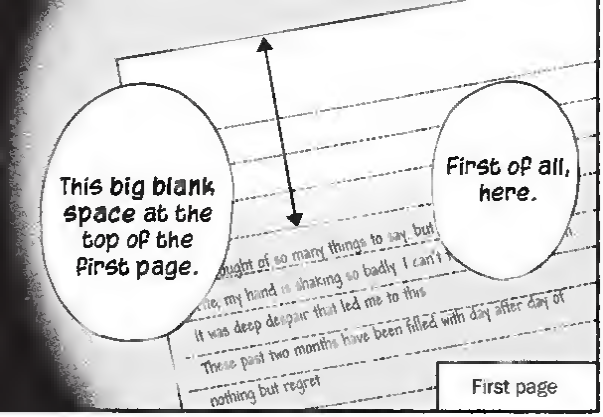
At which point she fell from the water tower
and died a painful death!
The reason the edge of the water tower was dry is that she had been sleeping there for so long.
She stayed there through the rain because she was unconscious. It all fits!
Then what about the note?!
BAM

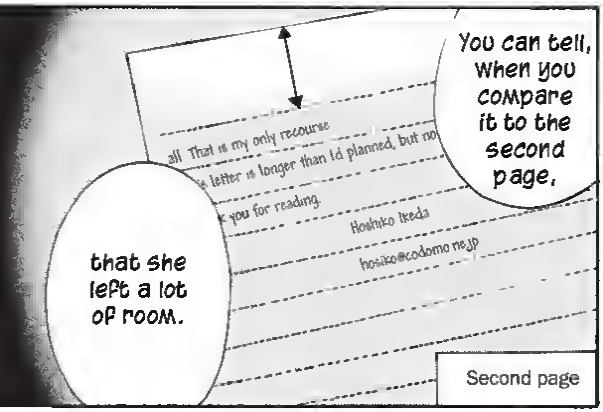
...
If she left a note, it had to be suicide!!
That was in her handwriting!
The suicide note Hoshiko wrote!!

...What do you mean?
SS...

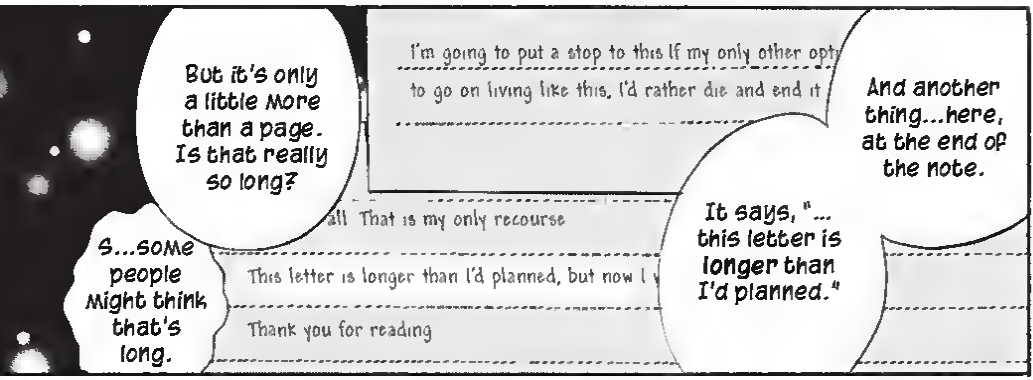

If it were a real suicide note, yes.
GULP

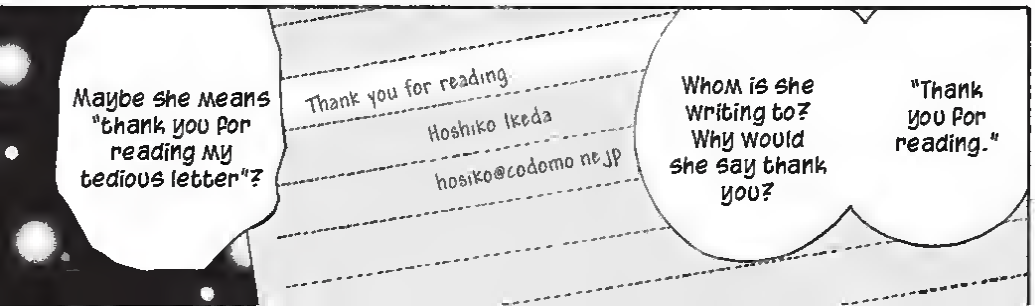

Take a look at this "suicide note."
I've thought of so many things to say, but now that it's time to write, my hand is shaking so badly, I can't think where to begin
It was deep despair that led me to this
These past two months have been filled with day after day of nothing but regret
At my workplace, I must endure insults above and beyond mere taunts. I have to get away from my colleagues and their efforts not to look at my hideously deformed face so I run home and buy a pre-packaged dinner at the corner store
there they all stare at my face
back to my apartment, look in the mirror, and cry
friend in the world is my cat Night
you imagine such a life?
looking back I see that I was wrong I should never have gone for plastic surgery—I should never have tried to ge the face my parents gave me Maybe this was divine ut. But it's time to take action.
g to put a stop to this. If my only other option is n living like this, I'd rather die and end it
all That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but now I will end it
Thank you for reading
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@cadomo ne jp
It...it looks like a normal suicide note to me!
Don't you think something seems unnatural?


This big blank space at the top of the first page.
First of all, here.
First page

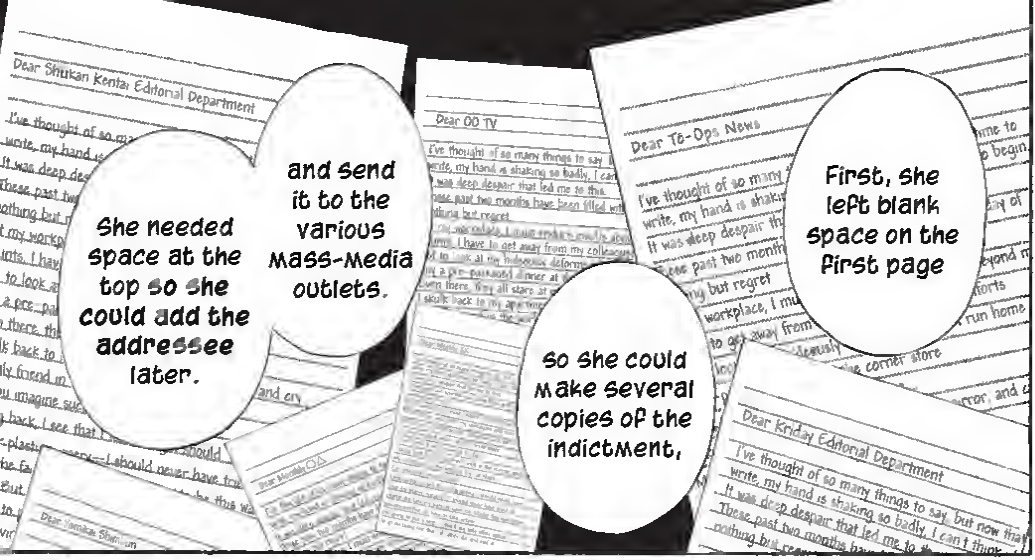

You can tell, when you compare it to the second page,
that she left a lot of room.
Second page

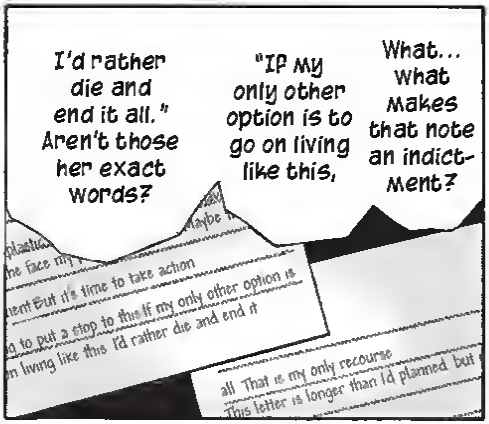
It's true that at first glance, it seems like she's writing about her despair and her determination to kill herself.
But there are few parts that seem strange.

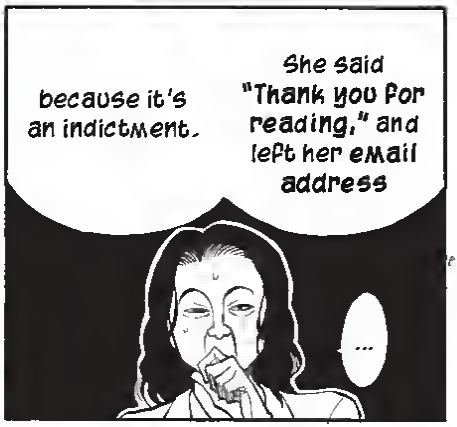

But it's only a little more than a page. Is that really so long?
S...some people might think that's long.
And another thing...here, at the end of the note.
It says, "... this letter is longer than I'd planned."

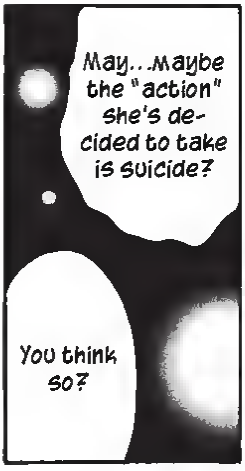

Maybe she means "thank you for reading my tedious letter"?
Thank you for reading
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@codomo ne.jp
Whom is she writing to? Why would she say thank you?
"Thank you for reading."

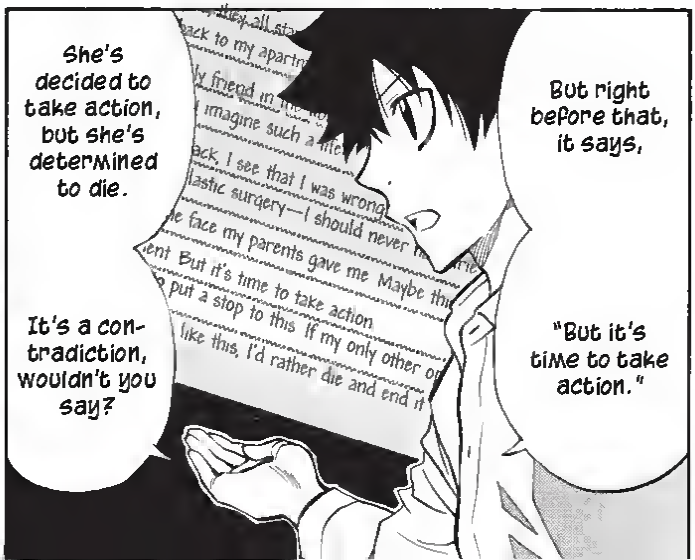
But why would someone who is about to kill herself
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@codomo.ne.jp
leave her email address?
I don't know! She's dead, who cares?!
This wasn't really a suicide note!
It was an indictment
revealing all your crimes!!
!!


Dear Shukan Kentai Editorial Department
Dear 00 TV
Dear Te-Ops News
Dear Kriday Editorial Department
She needed space at the top so she could add the addressee later.
and send it to the various mass-media outlets.
so she could make several copies of the indictment,
First, she left blank space on the first page

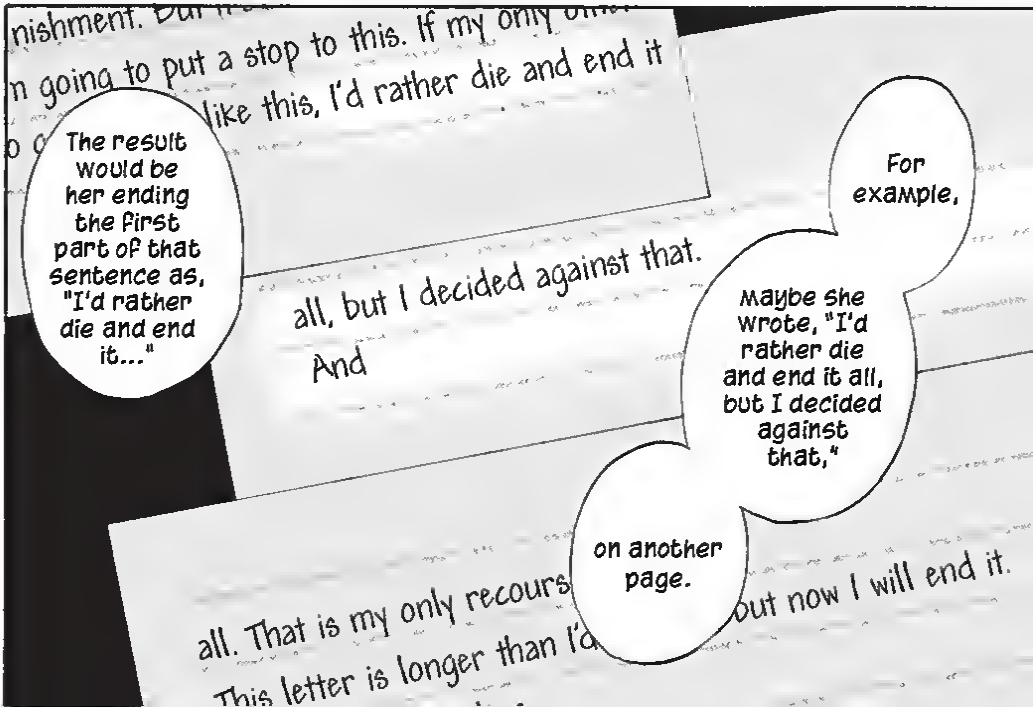

I'd rather die and end it all." Aren't those her exact words?
"If my only other option is to go on living like this,
What... What makes that note an indictment?
all That is my only recourse
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but

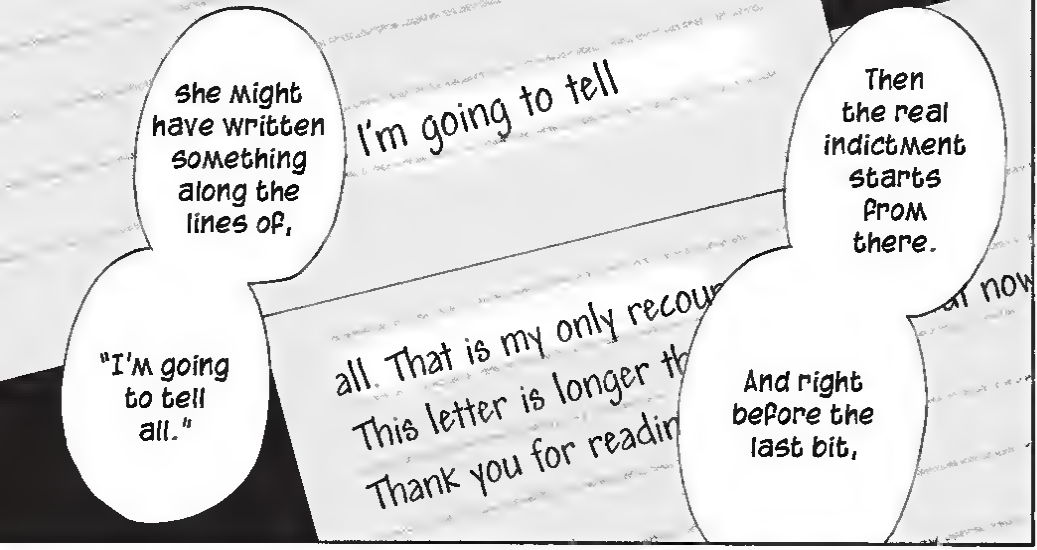

because it's an indictment.
She said "Thank you for reading," and left her email address
...

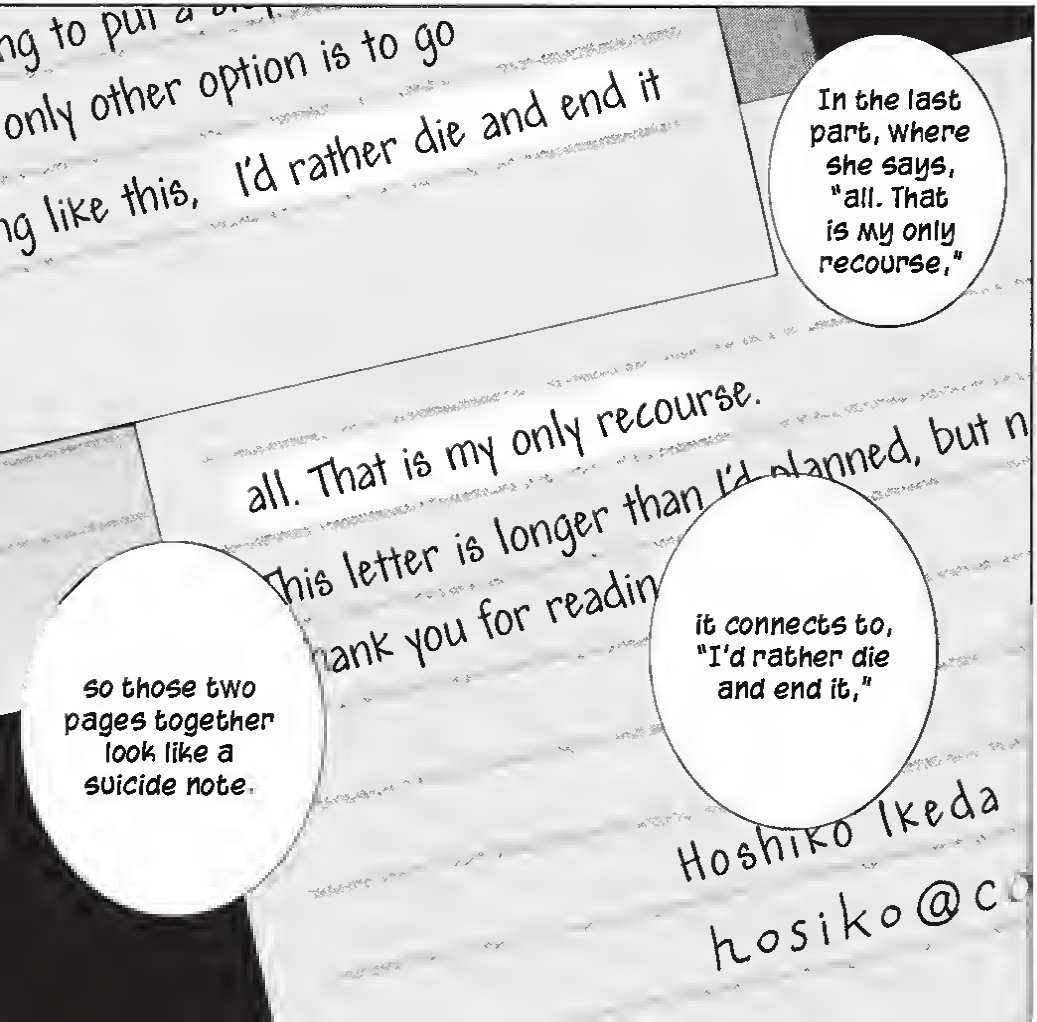

May...Maybe the "action" she's decided to take is suicide?
You think so?


She's decided to take action, but she's determined to die.
It's a contradiction, wouldn't you say?
But right before that, it says,
"But it's time to take action."

I wonder if
there was more to this long indictment letter
between these two pages.

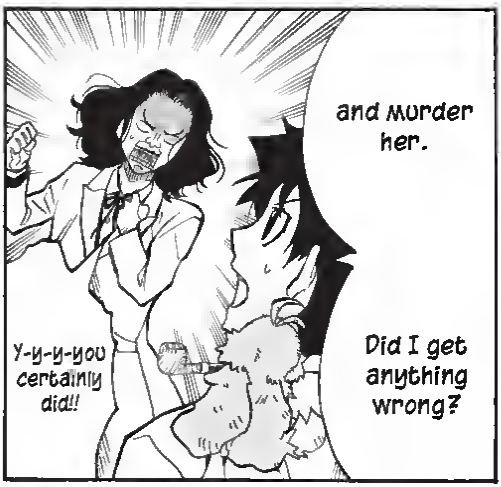

nishment.
n going to put a stop to this. If my only
like this, I'd rather die and end it
all, but I decided against that.
And
all. That is my only recours
but now I will end it.
The result would be her ending the first part of that sentence as, "I'd rather die and end it..."
For example,
Maybe she wrote, "I'd rather die and end it all, but I decided against that,"
on another page.


she might have written something along the lines of,
I'm going to tell
Then the real indictment starts from there.
"I'm going to tell all."
all. That is my only recou
This letter is longer th
Thank you for readin
And right before the last bit,


only other option is to go
like this, I'd rather die and end it
In the last part, where she says, "all. That is my only recourse,"
all. That is my only recourse.
This letter is longer than I'd planned, but n
Thank you for readin
so those two pages together look like a suicide note.
it connects to, "I'd rather die and end it,"
Hoshiko Ikeda
hosiko@c

That's how you got the idea to turn it into a fake suicide note
that Ikeda-san showed you this letter?
Akane-san, is it possible

Where is your proof?!


and murder her.
Y-y-y-you certainly did!!
Did I get anything wrong?

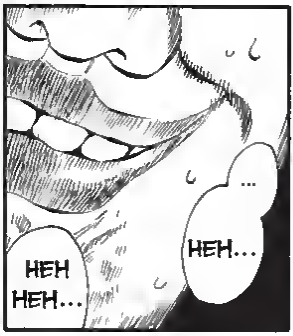
The proof is right there...
under your surgical gloves.

It doesn't make a lot of sense that you would put gloves on just to answer my questions!!
You weren't with a patient, and now it's your lunch break.
!!
I know you had just been golfing.
But why would you keep your glove on when you're not playing? It's awfully suspicious.
And in fact, the first time I met you,
you were wearing a golf glove on your left hand. That was strange, too.
...
...Would you remove your gloves, Akane-sensei?

From Hoshiko Ikeda-san's black cat, didn't you?
You got that
SS...
I thought it was strange that you would bother with the cat, too.
When we first saw the dead cat in her apartment,
When you went to rearrange her apartment.
...
What ...?
You should have left it alone
or set it loose outside.
Killing the cat
was your biggest mistake.
But it scratched you, so you snapped and killed it.
N-no... I got this from a neighborhood cat. These gloves are to hide the shameful scar...

...
Then we wouldn't have found traces of your blood
under the cat's claws.

HO HO HO HO!
ALL I DID WAS PUT HER OUT OF HER MISERY!!
NO ONE CAN GO ON LIVING WITH A FACE LIKE THAT!!


HEH HEH...
...
HEH...

WHAT DID I DO WRONG? TELL ME!

Damn you!!
GRAB

Stop, Watson.

So said the great American lecturer, Dale Carnegie.
"When we hate our enemies,
we are giving them power over us."
...
To a detective, his own hatred
is merely another enemy to be subdued, Watson.

...Cosmetic Surgeon Yoshito Akane,
you're under arrest
For the murder of Hoshiko Ikeda!!